

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7327

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, AF, US
SUBJ: ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. IN COUP PLOTTING

REF: KABUL 7021

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF MY SEPT 12 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN, I REFERRED TO RUMORS, PERHAPS EMANATING FROM THE GOVT HERE, THAT THE U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY ALLEGEDLY LED BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER QADER, FORMER CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL SHAHPOOR, AND DR. MIR ALI AKBAR. I REITERATED OUR POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE, AND DEFIED ANYONE TO PRODUCE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF U.S. COMPLICITY. WHILE WE HAVE PURSUED A POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE, I NOTED WE HAVE NOT IGNORED CONTACTS WHO COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN AFGHANISTAN. AMIN COMMENTED THAT THE GOVT DID HAVE EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP PLOT, BUT THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION OF RELEASING SUCH INFORMATION NOW BECAUSE IT WAS INTENT UPON IMPROVING RATHER THAN UNDERMINING RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

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2. IN SPEAKING TO AMIN ABOUT RUMORS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN AN AFGHAN INTERNAL AFFAIR, I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. I WAS DISTURBED TO HEAR RUMORS THAT THE U.S. WAS AMONG THOSE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE RECENT PLOT ALLEGEDLY LED BY QADER, SHAHPOOR, AND AKBAR. THE U.S. HAS FOLLOWED AND IS

FOLLOWING A POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE IN AFGHAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

B. OVER THE YEARS, THE U.S. HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY VARIOUS AFGHANS REQUESTING U.S. SUPPORT FOR THEIR PARTICULAR CAUSES. SUCH APPROACHES WERE MADE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE MONARCHY, THE DAOUDIST ERA, AND IN THE POST-APRIL 27 COUP PERIOD.

C. IN ALL CASES, WE HAVE FIRMLY REFUSED U.S. SUPPORT, UNDERLINING OUR POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE.

D. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE NOT IGNORED CONTACTS WHO COULD PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH INFORMATION WAS ALSO DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUR DESIRE TO BE AS WELL INFORMED AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE MIGHT TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS.

E. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME WHO DO NOT WISH THE U.S. WELL IN AFGHANISTAN MAY HAVE FABRICATED DOCUMENTS. IN ANY EVENT, I DEFIED ANYONE TO PRODUCE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF ANY U.S. FINANCIAL, MILITARY, OR MORAL SUPPORT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN SUBVERTING THE PRESET REGIME.

F. U.S. POLICY TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND EXCLUDES ANY EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY, RECOGNIZING THAT INSTABILITY
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HERE COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE STABILITY OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

3. AMIN LISTENED INTENTLY AND CLOSELY TO THE POINTS I MADE, AND, INTERESTINGLY, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR INTERESTS IN ACQUIRING INFORMATION ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. IF THE EMBASSY HAD ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL, I COULD APPROACH HIM DIRECTLY AT ANY TIME. AMIN ADDED THAT THE GOVT DOES POSSESS EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PLOT AGAINST THE REGIME. THE LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, DID NOT CONSIDER IT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE SUCH EVIDENCE PUBLIC BECAUSE THE DRA WANTED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND NOT TO UNDERMINE THEM.

4. COMMENT: AMIN REFRAINED FROM ANY COMMENT THAT THE EVIDENCE DID NOT INVOLVE THE U.S. HE DISCUSSED THE MATTER CALMLY WITH ME, PERHAPS WITH THE INTENTION OF CONVEYING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOW UNDER CONTROL INsofar AS ANY ORGANIZED OPPOSITION WAS CONCERNED. GIVEN THE NEED FOR CONTINUED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE DECISION NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC ALLEGED EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN COMPLICITY MAKES SOME SENSE. AN ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE

ALLEGED EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT MAY BE RATHER FLIMSY
AND UNCONVINCING. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE GOVT CONTINUES TO
USE THE DISCOVERY OF THE SO-CALLED ANTI-PEOPLE PLOT AS A REASON
FOR HOLDING INNUMERABLE DEMONSTRATIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF
KABUL TO CONDEMN THE PLOTTERS AND CONCOMITANTLY TO EXPRESS
SUPPORT FOR THE TARAHI REGIME.

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